COUNTRY STATEMENTS

At

“The 77th Session of the Commission
United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific”

April 27th, 2021

Her Excellency Armida Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP,
Distinguished Delegates,

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

May peace be upon us all

1. Our discussion today comes at a time of great urgency. As described by UNESCAP, the COVID-19 has become the worst crisis in the region since the second world war.

2. It has severely impacted all nations in achieving the 2030 Agenda, creating unprecedented impacts to our health system, economy and livelihoods. The World Bank has warned that, if not handled effectively, the pandemic could bring “a lost decade of economic growth”.

1
3. As with any other countries, Indonesia has been impacted.
   ➔ Our economic growth contracted from 5.02 percent in 2019 to minus 2.07 percent in 2020, having even fallen before to minus 5.32 in the second quarter of 2020; and
   ➔ The national poverty rate, which had fell from 11.13 percent in 2015 to 9.22 percent in 2019, rose again to 10.19 percent, a three years’ setback.

4. I therefore wish to echo my President’s message yesterday, at the opening of our meeting:
   ➔ that Asia and the Pacific must soon come out from the pandemic and become stronger
   ➔ and that UNESCAP must be able to serve as a catalyst for effective regional cooperation.

5. In this regard, I wish to underline a few points:

   **First, recovery of our region is crucial for global recovery.**
   We need to be able to rebound from the pandemic, converting challenges into opportunities.
   Indeed, the COVID-19 has provided us with the opportunity for reforms, particularly in designing more progressive support for those left behind.

6. We need to connect the dots, between our priorities and real needs on the ground. Having adequate, long-term, and predictable means of financing are important, and sustainable fiscal policy is an essential element.

7. We also need to continue exploring innovative financing to close the financing gap for post-pandemic SDGs acceleration.

8. In this spirit, in our annual 2021 government work plan, Indonesia is focusing to build a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable economic recovery. We aim to enhance social protection, health system, and
disaster resilience reform. We also aim to boost economic recovery through industry, investment, and tourism, towards green economy.

9. Next year, during our G20 Presidency, Indonesia will continue to make these efforts a priority. We will focus on enabling a stronger, inclusive, global recovery. We are committed to approach this by strengthening global cooperation and multistakeholder approach.

10. **Second, to be effective, synergy is crucial.**
    The role of UNESCAP in forging synergies, in creating a conducive and supportive regional ecosystem, is truly important. Policy coordination amongst member States, development partners, and other international organizations, must be enhanced. And this must result in a scaled up and concrete international collaboration.

11. **And third, regional health cooperation must be strengthened.**
    I wish to again reiterate the message of President Joko Widodo yesterday, that we must expand investment and collaboration in regional health resilience. UNESCAP must enhance its role as the platform for regional health collaboration.

12. Finally, I wish the 77th Session of the UNESCAP a success!

13. Indonesia stands ready to support and share our experiences in SDGs implementation as well as our recovery efforts.

*Thank you*

**Jakarta, April 27th, 2021**

Minister of National Development Planning/
Head of National Development Planning Agency

**H.E. Suharso Monoarfa**